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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY China
 SUBJECT Economic - Forestry
 HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper
 WHERE PUBLISHED Hong Kong
 DATE PUBLISHED 17 Sep 1951
 LANGUAGE Chinese

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950

DATE DIST. 3 Nov 1951

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Hsing-tao Jih-pao.

EAST CHINA EXCEEDS YEAR'S FORESTRY PROGRAM IN 6 MONTHS

In the first 6 months of 1951, the authorities and people of East China accomplished 149 percent of the forestry goal for the year. Trees were planted on 458,000 mou of land (one mou equals 1.6 acre). The people planted 7,200,000 seedlings, and the raising of seedlings reached 88.2 percent of the goal for the whole year. Thousands of effective new forest-protection teams were organized. The superiority of private and semiprivate afforestation programs over wholly state-operated plans has been amply demonstrated. East China has 63 million mou of forests, with 270 million mou still available for afforestation.

From January through June 1951, afforestation in East China was carried out on 458,000 mou of land in East China. This represents 149 percent of the goal for the year. The people planted 7,200,000 seedlings, more than twice the year's goal. Patriotic interest engendered by the various political and military programs carried on during the period accounted for the great popular interest in this vital program. Raising of seedlings reached 88.2 percent of the year's goal.

In addition, 786 new forest-protection committees, four branch committees, and 6,519 teams were organized with a membership of 63,300 persons. They work very effectively.

It has been demonstrated that, except in North Anhwei, private or joint state and private activity in the afforestation program is far more successful than purely state activity. In several provinces, 90 percent of the results were accomplished by private activities. A large number of model workers and activists were revealed. The people are now actively calling for more rigid forest protection and for sealing off of mountain forest areas. This attitude seems to be developing into the proportions of a mass movement.

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- 1 -

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The people are being encouraged to sow seeds and develop their own private seedling plots, thus eliminating heavy dependence upon nurseries.

A mid-June forestry conference for the region reviewed the 6 month's results and agreed to stress encouraging and relying on popular interest in this important activity. The masses will be encouraged to learn more about growing seedlings. The first consideration in afforestation is water conservation, but the second is development of cash-producing crops. South of the Yangtze River the people should be encouraged to promote afforestation for the latter purpose. The cheapest way to develop forests is to preserve those now in existence, both on level ground and in mountainous areas, and to enlarge them by human labor. Controlled cutting plans will be strengthened and expanded.

At present, there is a total timbered area in East China of 63 million mou. Much of this timber has reached marketable age. However, there is still an area of 270 million mou of wild land that may be planted with trees. With popular support thoroughly mobilized there are excellent possibilities in the afforestation program.

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- 2 -

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